



The original Chestnut Lodge main building will be preserved and turned into seven condominium units according to plans to develop the 20.4-acre site.

## Chestnut Lodge: Plan Near Approval

Rockville has moved closer to approving the redevelopment plan for the Chestnut Lodge property, a 20.4-acre site along West Montgomery Avenue that was once home to one of the nation's foremost psychiatric hospitals.

The proposed development would include 36 new single-family homes with detached garages, as well as seven condominium units, in the West End neighborhood of the City.

On Jan. 9, the Mayor and Council continued discussion on a number of conditions that would be added to the exploratory plan proposed by developer Morton Levine, president of Chestnut Lodge Properties. The Mayor and Council directed City staff to prepare conditions that must be agreed to by the developer before approval will be granted.

The site is one of the City's few remaining undeveloped sites of significant size. The Mayor and Council have worked with the previous owners of the unoccupied property to preserve several of its historic buildings.

Chestnut Lodge Properties has proposed that the main building, which in its past has been a resort and also the main building of the psychiatric hospital, be converted into seven condominiums. It also has proposed that the building known as the "Little Lodge" become a single dwelling unit.

According to the plan, the building known as "Frieda's Cottage" would be given to Peerless Rockville, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Rockville's history. Peerless Rockville plans to convert the building to a private residence, which it said is the best means of preserving it.

In discussions with the developer, the Mayor and Council said that a sidewalk should be installed extending from West Montgomery Avenue along the east side of Thomas Street, crossing at Frieda's Cottage and continuing on to the west side to the end of Thomas Street. They said curbs and gutters on both sides of Thomas Street also should be included. **RR**

## Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park Construction Underway at King Farm

Construction on the new 26.3-acre Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park in the King Farm community is underway.

On Jan. 9, the Mayor and Council approved a \$1.5 million contract for the first stages of construction with Nardi Construction, a company already providing grading and installing utilities for the community's developer, King Farm Associates.

A playground, walking paths and green space are expected to be usable by late summer. Plans for the remainder of the park include a football and softball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, a dog park and other amenities.

Funding for the park will come from a variety of sources, including the City of Rockville's Capital Improvements Program (\$1.1 million), the State of Maryland's Program Open Space (\$1.5 million), a U.S. federal government grant (\$75,000) and from an inkind construction grant from King Farm Associates (worth \$473,000). The total cost for the park will be \$2.66 million.

The Mayor and Council named the park for the poet and peacemaker who died in June 2004, a month before his 14th birthday. Mattie's books on poetry topped the New York Times' bestseller list. The remarkable youngster who was a well-known figure patrolling the community in his wheelchair counted Oprah Winfrey and President Jimmy Carter among his close friends.

Mattie accomplished much in his short lifetime despite a long struggle with a rare muscular disease that also took the lives of his siblings. For the last three years of his life, Mattie lived at King Farm with his mother, Jeni, who is battling an adult form of the same disease.



Mattie J.T. Stepanek will be remembered in many ways at the park named in his honor, including in the form of a statue that already is under creation (right).

"At first you might think that naming a park has nothing to do with peace," Jeni Stepanek told the Mayor and Council in April. "But if Mattie was here, he would say it has everything to do with it... Mattie believed

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you must play after every storm."

The City is working with Jeni Stepanek and representatives of the community to include appropriate tributes to Mattie in the park. Proposed ideas include activities for physically challenged persons; a statue of Mattie and his Golden Retriever service dog, Micah; and an annual event for local schools that will recognize Mattie's passion for peace. **RR**

### Mayor and Council Focus

#### Upcoming Meeting Agenda Items to Watch

- Feb. 2 (Thurs.) Discussion on Zoning Ordinance. 7 p.m.
- Feb. 13 (Mon.) FY07 Budget Worksession. 7 p.m.
- Feb. 28 (Tues.) Discussion on Zoning Ordinance. 7 p.m.



A TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME... Phase I of the redeveloped Rockville Town Center (Rockville Town Square) is taking shape. Above is a model of what the completed Maryland Avenue Extended will resemble. The latest information is included in the Town Center special insert in this edition of Rockville Reports. First elements of the new heart of Rockville are set to open later this year.

## February's Best of Rockville

### 10 Family Valentine's Day Dance 7-9 p.m.

Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. \$1 general admission. 240-314-8830.

### 9-12, 17-19

Victorian Lyric Opera Company: The Gypsy Baron Community opera company (right) presentation. (Preview Thu., Feb. 9), Fri. Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Call 240-314-8690 for ticket information.



24 11th Annual African American Heritage Production THE FINEST! presents "A Change Gon' Come" 7:30 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$7 seniors & children ages 5-12. 240-314-8633.

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# Rockville on Alert: Emergency Notification System Launched

More than 340 people have registered for a new City Emergency Alert system launched in January.

Residents are signing up for the Alert Rockville program that will send emergency alerts as e-mails that go to their computers, as text messages delivered to their cell phones or as messages sent to personal electronic communication devices such as pagers or BlackBerrys. The address to sign up is <https://alert.rockvillemd.gov/>

The service allows citizens to receive messages on one or all of these communications means. Users register to receive alerts about weather, countywide traffic (situations that usually involve road closures of two-to-three hours or more) or alerts about specific Rockville traffic. Messages also are sent about major emergency situations.

Montgomery County will provide the alerts regarding weather and countywide traffic.

"Major incidents over the past several years, both in the Washington area and in other parts of the nation, have demonstrated how important it is

to get early notification to as many people as possible," said Rockville Police Chief Terry Treschuk. "This state-of-the-art system will allow Rockville residents to receive early warnings on a variety of possibly critical situations."

Citizens who sign up for text messages may be charged a message fee by their cellular company, depending on their service plan.

Alert Rockville is the second major emergency notification program implemented by the City in 2005. In August, the City put in place the "Rockville Reverse 911" program. Reverse 911 allows contact of citizens and/or businesses via telephone to inform them of urgent situations.

Reverse 911 operates through a database of City of Rockville phone numbers provided by the local telephone company. Damage from hurricanes and other extreme weather conditions, fires, hazardous chemical spills, public water supply concerns and serious criminal investigations (i.e., searches for suspects, missing children, etc.) are examples of when a Reverse 911

alert phone call may be made to citizens in an affected City neighborhood or throughout the entire City. In addition, the system may be used for non-emergency alerts such as notifying citizens of upcoming community meetings and local road closures.

Only in extreme emergency situations will the Reverse 911 system be utilized between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. While messages will be sporadic, the City recognizes that not all citizens wish to receive non-emergency messages.

Residents who wish to be removed from the non-emergency alert system can send a request via e-mail to [911admin@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:911admin@rockvillemd.gov) or in writing to R911 Administrator, Rockville City Police Department, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. 20850. **RR**

Sign-up for  
**Alert Rockville** for  
instant notification of  
City emergencies  
<https://alert.rockvillemd.gov>



**EXPLORE A WORLD OF COLOR AT GLENVIEW...**  
*African-American artist Winston Harris utilizes a variety of geometric shapes, color theory, transparency and rhythm to create unique two- and three-dimensional collage prints (see left). His work, along with photographs by Carl Root and fused glass by Robert Wiener, will be featured at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery during Black History Month, Feb. 5-28. An opening reception will be held Sunday, Feb. 5, from 1-4 p.m. and will include worldbeat jazz music from CAJE from 2-3 p.m. An artist talk will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 16, and a guided tour will be conducted on Friday, Feb. 17, at 10 a.m. For more information call 240-314-8682 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/arts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/arts).*

## Zoning in on Land Use Regulations

The City's plan to study and restructure its zoning regulations, bringing them up-to-date and making them easier to understand, moved forward in January and will continue through most of 2007.

The process will affect future building projects that could impact any resident or business owner, ranging from building backyard garages to the heights of major office buildings.

To assist in this effort, the City is seeking interested and qualified citizens to join a nine-member task force that will help guide the revisions to the Zoning Ordinance. The task force, which will be appointed by the Mayor and Council, will review the project's outline in March and April and will work on the ordinance further October through December.

The work group will include one member of the Mayor and Council, two members from the Planning Commission, one from the City's Board of Appeals, two individuals representing the development community and three Rockville residents.

Applications for participation can be obtained by calling the City Clerk's Office at 240-314-8280. Applications must be filed by Jan. 27.

In January, the Mayor and Council began an extended meeting schedule, with a number of sessions devoted to revision of the Zoning Ordinance.

Items discussed at a Jan. 17 meeting included regulations that pertained to home-based

businesses; improvements to properties that include historic accessory structures; and regulations that govern accessory apartments.

Considerable discussion was devoted to accessory structures, such as garages and sheds.

"Although the study of the Zoning Ordinance will cover many details of land use regulation, it is items such as these—items that could affect a resident's backyard or the backyard of an adjoining neighbor—that are the most important to the majority of citizens," said Somer Cross, a planner with Rockville's Department of Community Planning and Development Services (CPDS) who will help guide the zoning revision process.

The last comprehensive revision to Rockville's Zoning Ordinance took place more than 30 years ago. Since that time, the current ordinance has been amended frequently, and sometimes inconsistently. That has left it in a form that even experienced planners sometimes have a difficult time understanding and interpreting.

In addition, the theories of land use planning have changed since the last revision.

For more information on the zoning revision process or about serving on the zoning revision committee, contact CPDS at 240-314-8200 or by e-mail at [zoning@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:zoning@rockvillemd.gov) or go to the City Web site at [www.rockvillemd.gov/zoning](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/zoning). **RR**



## Focus on CITIZEN SERVICE REQUESTS

Rockville has many programs that affect the lives of residents. On a regular basis, "Focus On" will take an introspective look at these programs and detail the impact they have for City residents.

### Service With A Smile

A missed trash pick-up. A pothole that needs to be fixed. Information about a new City development.

These are just a few of the dozens of requests Linda Moran, Rockville's Mayor and Council support specialist, fields each week through the City of Rockville's Citizen Service Request (CSR) program. The program is one direct way the City can help with a question, complaint, comment or suggestion.

CSR began in the 1990's, when Rockville's Mayor and Council designated a full-time staff member to help citizens with questions about the City government and to ensure the City performs at a high level of customer service.

Citizens can submit their requests electronically by logging onto [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) and clicking on "citizen service request" or by sending an e-mail to [csr@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:csr@rockvillemd.gov). They also can call the City Manager's Office at 240-314-



**King Farm resident Bob Balkam talks with Council Support Specialist Linda Moran about the new Mattie Stepanek Park.**

8139 or send a letter to City Hall at 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Md. 20850.

Once a request is received, Moran either quickly answers the question or puts the person in touch with a staff member who can help.

"CSR is a way for people to have a person within the City Manager's Office who can help answer their questions and respond to their requests for service," said Moran. "While the Mayor and Council set the priorities, enact the budget and make policy decisions, individual City departments make decisions on programs and operations. As the Citizen Service Request coordinator, I can help guide them through the process of having a question or is-

sue answered or making sure a suggestion gets heard by the right person. It's a service that anyone in the City can utilize at any time — especially when they do not know who to call first."

Moran also assists with the monthly Mayor and Council Drop-in sessions. This is a designated period of time before a Mayor and Council meeting when Mayor Larry Giammo and one Councilmember are available to meet individually with citizens on any topic. Drop-in is advertised monthly on Page 5 of *Rockville Reports*.

For more information about the CSR program, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) or call 240-314-8139. **RR**

### NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Mayor and Council Meetings Concerning Zoning Ordinance Revisions:

*Dates are tentative. All meetings at City Hall*

- ✓ Feb. 2 (Thursday), 7 p.m.
- ✓ Feb. 28 (Tuesday), 7 p.m.



## When Rockville's Snow Emergency Is In Effect — Know What Is Expected

### Heavy Snow Could Mean Parking Changes

Rockville's innovative snow emergency plan, which helps clear streets faster by encouraging residents to park in areas so plows can clear roads more quickly, will be in effect again this winter.

When a major snow is predicted, residents should watch local news stations including The Rockville Channel (TRC 11), listen to the radio or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) to learn if the City has a snow emergency. A complete list of stations is listed below.

When a snow emergency is declared, residents are requested to park their cars in available garages or driveways on their properties. When that is not possible, residents are required to park only on sides of the street with even house numbers. Once that lane and the main part of the street is cleared, cars must be moved to the cleared curb (odd-numbered side). Violators may be ticketed or towed. When both sides of the street are cleared, cars can be parked in regular spaces.

Conditions leading to a "snow emergency" are significant, deep snow. The city manager may declare a "snow emergency" and will announce the status through local media, via the City's Web ([www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov)) and on The Rockville Channel

(Cable Channel 11). The "snow emergency" ordinance states:

- The city manager may invoke "snow emergency" parking restrictions
- The City may remove or impound cars improperly parked
- Residents with driveways must park all vehicles there
- Residents without driveways, or who have more vehicles than will fit in the driveway, may park on the even-numbered side of the street only
- In courts or cul-de-sacs, where house numbers are not even on one side of the street and odd on the other, parking is allowed only on the left side of the streets as one enters the cul-de-sac or court
- No parking is allowed in the "bulb" of the cul-de-sac or court
- After the snowfall ends and the odd-numbered side of the street is cleared, vehicles must be moved to the odd-numbered side to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side
- A fine of \$100 for a "snow emergency" parking violation will be incurred

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 240-314-8500. **RR**

### Inclement Weather Updates

The City of Rockville announces inclement weather

status through several outlets.

To find out whether a City meeting or recreation program has been cancelled due to the winter weather, check the City's Web site ([www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov)), The Rockville Channel (Cable Channel 11) and the following radio and television stations for Rockville City government closings and delays:

**Radio:** WTOP (1500 AM, 820 AM, 107.7 FM and 103.5 FM); WARW (94.7 FM); WRQX (107.3 FM); WFRE (99.9 FM and 930 AM).

**TV:** WRC-TV (NBC Channel 4); WTTG-Fox TV (Channel 5); WJLA-TV (ABC Channel 7 and NewsChannel 8); and WUSA-TV (CBS Channel 9).

The Rockville Recreation Inclement Weather hotline number is 240-314-5020. **RR**

### Snow Shoveling

Snow must be removed from all sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces and the paved right-of-way sidewalk immediately fronting or abutting a property. This includes access ramps and curb cuts designed for use by people with disabilities.

Snow and ice removal must occur within 24 hours if the snowfall is less than three inches and within 48 hours if it surpasses three inches. Fines may be imposed if the City ordinance is not followed. Call 240-314-8330 for more information. **RR**



**KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE ...** More than 500 people packed Rockville's F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre on Jan. 16 for the City's 34th annual celebration of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. The day also saluted two Rockville individuals who have made major contributions to the community. Lise Hamlin (above, center) won the F. Michael Taff Award for her efforts to help the hearing impaired. Rockville High School student Hassan "Sonny" Shah, right, was given the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Youth Award, for his leadership. With the winners, from left, are Mayor Larry Giammo, guest speaker Brigadier General Clara Adams-Ender and Virginia Onley, chair of Rockville's Human Rights Commission.

## Cell Tower Proposed For Twinbrook

### Goes to Planning Commission Feb. 22

Representatives of Sprint (APC Realty & Equipment LLC), a global provider of voice, data and Internet services, are tentatively scheduled to appear before Rockville's Planning Commission on Wednesday, Feb. 22, and before the Board of Appeals on Saturday, March 4, to ask for a special exception to install and operate a mobile telephone tower and accompanying equipment compound near the Twinbrook Mart Shopping Center.

The proposed tower would be approximately 98 feet tall—48 feet taller than the 50-foot height limit for a facility of this type when it is located within 500 feet of a residential zone. It would be in the rear of the existing U.S. Post Office branch building in the shopping center at 2001 Veirs Mill Road.

Citizens are encouraged to attend to give input on the proposed plans.

The Planning Commission meeting begins at 7 p.m. on Feb. 22, and the Board of Appeals public hearing will be at 9:30 a.m. on March 4 in the Mayor and Council Chambers at Rockville City Hall. Those who plan to attend should call 240-314-8200 prior to the meetings to confirm the item will be on those respective agendas.

If the Planning Commission and Board of Appeals recommend approval of the special exception, the matter then goes to the Mayor and Council for consideration of a waiver of the height limit of 50 feet.

For more information, call the City of Rockville's Department of Community Planning and Development Services at 240-314-8200. **RR**



**SANTA'S HELPERS...** Mary Caroline Colletti (left) joined volunteers of all ages from throughout Rockville at City Hall to help make the holidays brighter for families in need. In December, 574 Rockville seniors and family households received gift certificates while their children received new toys. Another 67 Rockville families were matched with a sponsor through the Family Sponsorship Program.

The Rockville Holiday Drive, "Take Part, Give from the Heart," involved nearly 170 adult and student volunteers in sorting food, packing and delivering Thanksgiving baskets, and assisting with the toy distribution. The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation also contributed more than 800 toys for the drive. King Farm resident Lance Corporal Brant (right) helped distribute gifts.



## Plug in to your City Government

- Rockville news coverage
- Live meeting and events
- Features on major City issues
- Important City government announcements

### The Rockville Channel (TRC) Cable Channel 11



Streaming online at  
[www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov)



## Camps Sizzle With New Adventures

### Rockville Summer Camps Registration Begins Jan. 31 for Residents

Hot fun in the summertime is coming.

Even though City of Rockville camps are still months away, now is the time for parents and kids to start planning warm weather adventures to ensure first pick of kids' favorite activities.

The 2006 summer camps are available to view at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). Click on "Rock Enroll," then choose "2006 Summer Camps." A guide with a complete listing of all of the activities is expected to be mailed to residents on Friday, Jan. 27.

Resident registration begins Tuesday, Jan. 31. Camp registration is opened up to non-residents Tuesday, Feb. 14. Many of the popular camps, such as cheerleading and skateboarding, can fill quickly, so it is important for families to register early.

The City annually offers hundreds of unique opportunities for children to fill their lazy, hazy days with everything from learning adventures to sporting events. For working parents with children



Many summer camps include trips to the Rockville Swim Center

ages 7-14, there are new one-week evening clinics to introduce kids to a new sport or hone existing skills in lacrosse, tennis and field hockey. From stick handling and passing to ball control and court movements, kids will learn new skills while having fun in these special summer clinics.

Students ages 7-10 will enjoy a new one-week, half-day "Yoga Kids" camp that focuses on teaching yoga postures, breathing techniques and body-mind awareness through creative storytelling, music, drama, crafts and cooperative

games.

Camp programs begin June 19 and most are one to two weeks.

Detailed information on Rockville summer camps is available online and in the printed Summer Camp Guide. Registration can be done online or by faxing, mailing or dropping off the registration form and payment to Rockville City Hall, Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, Rockville Municipal Swim Center or the Rockville Senior Center.

For more information, call 240-314-8620. **RR**

## Citizen's Police Academy Spots Still Available

How closely does the Rockville Police Academy mirror television shows like *Law & Order*, *NYPD Blue* and *Crime Scene Investigation*?

Find out by participating in the spring Citizen's Police Academy—a free, 10-week introduction to the City of Rockville Police every Tuesday evening from 6:30-9 p.m. March 7-May 7.

While the City offers the academy program annually, this year's participants will be able to learn even more about how the City works with Montgomery County and state law enforcement officials. Citizens also will be shown a demonstration of Rockville's new canine unit, learn more about the use of deadly force in police work and gain information about identity theft, gangs and graffiti.

"Many of the post popular television shows today focus on crime investigation or law enforcement, but quite often, they don't give people a true idea of what police work is

like," said Corporal Jan Seilhamer, Rockville's community services police officer.

"The citizen's academy is a realistic introduction to what officers do each day and gives citizens a chance to get to know members of the police and feel comfortable with us in the community."

The introductory program covers topics such as patrol operations, criminal law, deadly force, crime scene investigation and more. A highlight of the program is a trip to the National Institutes of Health fire arms training simulator, where participants can react to "shoot, don't shoot" situations and learn how accurately their aim is.

All participants who complete the program are invited to a special graduation ceremony and will receive a certificate of completion and a t-shirt.

Registration for the spring citizen's police academy is ongoing until March 7. For more information or to register, contact Seilhamer at 240-314-8922. **RR**



## City Prepares for Alternative Refuse and Recycling Program

### Pilot Plan Starts March 20 for 777 Homes

New equipment has been ordered and schedules have been set. A limited pilot program to test the City's refuse and recycling collection program for 777 designated households chiefly in and around the Hungerford and Monument neighborhoods will begin on Monday, March 20.

Residences selected to participate will receive special new refuse and recycling carts and a packet of participation information the week prior to the program's start.

The refuse and recycling pilot program will give the City and its residents an opportunity to study an alternative collection method. Among its many potential benefits are cleaner neighborhoods, less weekly refuse, more recycling preparation time, an easier way of bringing items to the curb and to encourage increased recycling.

It also is a step toward modernizing the City's refuse and recycling collection program. An investment in a more technologically advanced collection system would help lessen worker injuries and stabilize the spiraling program costs the City foresees for the future.

"We are grateful to the many

**Presidents' Day:**  
The City will collect refuse and recycling on Presidents' Day, Monday, Feb. 20. Be sure to place bins at the curb by 6 a.m.

residents who will take part in this test program," said Craig Simoneau, director of Rockville's Department of Public Works. "We understand this will be a change, but we hope that once people begin using the program, the many benefits will become clear. The participants' experiences will allow us to evaluate a new refuse and recycling option that will help ensure that we are providing the best service, at the most reasonable cost for our residents."

A list of homes selected to participate in the new program is now available on the City's Web site at [www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/refuse-pilot](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/refuse-pilot). Those homes will receive a new 96-gallon, wheeled cart for refuse and one 64-gallon, wheeled cart for mixed paper recycling. Residents will continue to use the 22-gallon bin for mixed plastic,

metal and glass recycling. Their collections will be reduced from twice to once per week.

The pilot program will eliminate backyard collections. However, those who are unable to wheel their refuse and recycling carts to the curb, such as the disabled and elderly, may be granted waivers.

In December, the Mayor and Council approved the pilot program after a March 2005 survey of 1,065 households conducted for the City's Department of Public Works showed that 72 percent of all respondents were supportive of the City making decisions that will keep refuse rates down. In the survey, 76 percent of respondents supported elimination of backdoor service to control rate increases and 55 percent supported once-a-week collections if provided with a large, wheeled trash cart.

Participants in the nine-month pilot program will be asked to give their opinions on the refuse and recycling pilot through surveys conducted mid-way through and at the end of the program. The Mayor and Council will then evaluate the results and determine if the program should be expanded.

Two members of the Mayor and Council, Mayor Larry Giammo and Councilmember Susan Hoffmann, also are participating in the pilot program. **RR**



**The benefits of semi-automated refuse service, which will be used from March through December at 777 Rockville homes in a pilot program, become much clearer through these photos. Wheeled containers, which easily carry refuse from homes to the curb, fit into the grasp of the mechanism on the trucks (top photo). The containers are smoothly lifted and dumped (bottom photo). The system operates in a manner that keeps isolated trash from flying away, helping neighborhoods stay clean. This modern collection method also lessens the chance of worker injuries, helping to stem rising program costs.**





# INSIDE MAYOR & COUNCIL

A Glimpse into the  
City Government at Work



**NEW ON THE BEAT...** Mayor Larry Giammo swore in veteran Ken Davis as an officer of the City of Rockville Police on Jan. 6. Davis, a seven-year member of the United States Air Force and Army military police, received one of the highest honors at the Montgomery County Police Academy. He was nominated as graduating class speaker.

## 'Slower Speeds' Program: Fast Results

The "Slower Speeds for Safer Schools" pilot program launched in January around three Rockville elementary schools in an attempt to slow traffic and protect pedestrians yielded fast results in just its first week.

The program was started on Tuesday, Jan. 3, around Ritchie Park, Meadow Hall and College Gardens elementary schools. Continuing through June, the City will implement several 15 miles per hour speed limit zones on roads adjacent to schools. Temporary signs will be erected approximately 30 minutes before school starts and 30 minutes before school ends. The signs will be removed 30 minutes after the official start and end of the school day.

The program was designed by Rockville's Traffic and Transportation Division in its Department of Public Works. The City's Police Department is supporting the program's implementation.

The Traffic and Transportation Division conducted speed surveys at all three schools during the program's first week that showed drivers slowed down for the signs

in comparison to previous speeds recorded prior to the program's implementation. Similar speed surveys will be repeated in March and May.

"Rockville will continue to try innovative plans with the intent of protecting our pedestrians—especially our youngest ones who need extra care," said Emad Elshafei, Rockville's acting chief of Traffic and Transportation. "The early results indicate that this might be an effective way to get our students to school safely."

In the first week of the program, police issued six traffic warnings to drivers around College Gardens Elementary; two citations and two warnings around Ritchie Park; and 13 warnings and one citation around Meadow Hall.

A major goal of the Mayor and Council over the past four years has been to implement programs and specific measures to protect pedestrians. The Slower Speeds program will be assessed in June. If it proves successful, the program could be expanded to other Rockville area schools. **RR**

## Rockville Could Be New Home to Two Organizations

Two significant organizations are looking to move their headquarters to the Falls Grove area of Rockville.

The Mayor and Council have given approval to schematic building designs for a five-story, 133,800 square-foot building on Research Boulevard, between Gude Drive and Research Court that would become the new home of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The organization has been a long-time fixture in North Bethesda.

Approval of schematic building plans also was given to Route 28 Associates LLC for a three-story, 31,000 square-foot building at the corner of West Montgomery Avenue and Woodhill Road. That building would become the new headquarters for the Jewish Social Service Agency (JSSA).

Both projects will advance to the City's Planning Commission for the next step in seeking approval, which will be site plan review in the form of a detailed application.

The ASHA headquarters, which would include a three-level parking structure, would be one of two buildings likely to be constructed on that 7.3-acre

site. It is anticipated that a future five-story, 80,000 square-foot building with a two-level parking structure will eventually share the site.

Attorney Jody Kline, representing ASHA, said he has been present for previous meetings where the Mayor and Council and Rockville Economic Development, Inc., had discussed trying to attract more "quality corporate citizens."

"Your efforts are paying off," said Kline, who mentioned how ASHA has been named one of the top organizations where to work in the Washington area. "This is the kind of corporate citizen you want to have."

Mayor Larry Giammo summed up the sentiments of the Mayor and Council by

**"ASHA was named one of the top organizations to work for in the Washington area. This is the kind of corporate citizen you want to have."**

— Jody Kline,  
ASHA Attorney

adding, "We very much look forward to having ASHA here in the city limits of Rockville."

The JSSA headquarters—a brick building with cast stone—will be built on a site originally designated for multi-family use. However, the maximum allowable amount of multi-family units in Falls Grove already has been approved

for the development and a previous concept plan change allows for office use on this site. **RR**

## City Receives 15th Outstanding Budget Award

For the previous 14 years, the City of Rockville's Finance Department was recognized for outstanding preparation of the City's annual budget document. This year is no different.

The Government Finance Officers Association recently awarded the City of Rockville its highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting—a 15th consecutive outstanding budget preparation award.

"This award represents significant achievement by your organization," the association stated in a letter to the City.

Each year cities across the country submit their budget documents for review by peers in the field. Each document is evaluated in four categories: policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories to receive the award.

"This award is important because citizens can be assured

that the information in the budget books is timely, accurate and relevant," said Dominic Del Pozzo, Rockville's budget officer. "We hope to continue this success as we submit an even more improved budget document for next year's award."

The award serves as a performance measurement that the City's Department of Finance is performing at a high level as benchmarked against other jurisdictions. The award is one more way the City is meeting the Mayor and Council's goal of enhancing City government performance.

"Putting the Budget document together at such a high level is a team effort of the entire organization," said Gavin Cohen, director of Finance. "That we have been able to sustain these high standards over such a long period of time is a testimony to the professionalism of staff and their commitment to a high quality product." **RR**

## FY '07 Mayor & Council Budget Dates

**FEB. 13:** Budget Overview/Worksession  
**APRIL 3:** Proposed budget presented to Mayor and Council  
**APRIL 24:** Budget Public Hearing  
**MAY 1:** Budget Public Hearing  
**MAY 15:** Budget Worksession  
**MAY 22:** Budget Worksession  
**JUNE 5:** Budget Adoption



Mayor  
Larry Giammo



Councilmember  
Bob Dorsey



Councilmember  
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember  
Phyllis Marcuccio



Councilmember  
Anne M. Robbins

## Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) when there is a General Session or Public Hearing. Call the City Clerk's Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, the Councilmember scheduled for February is:

- **Tuesday, Feb. 21:** Phyllis Marcuccio

## Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel (TRC 11), and are available on streaming video at: [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). Citizens may comment on any subject for up to three minutes during the "Citizens Forum" portion at most general session meetings. All meetings are subject to change.

- **Feb. 2 (Thur.)** Discussion on Zoning Ordinance, 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 6 (Mon.)** Citizens' Forum, 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 13 (Mon.)** FY07 Budget Worksession, 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 17, 18, 19 (Sat.-Mon.)** Retreat at Cottage in Civic Center Park
- **Feb. 21 (Tues.)** Citizens' Forum, 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 27 (Mon.)** 7 p.m.
- **Feb. 28 (Tues.)** Discussion on Zoning Ordinance, 7 p.m.

## Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:

- Environment Commission (one)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (one at-large)
- Human Rights Commission (one)
- Rockville Scholarship Fund (one)
- Rockville Sister City Corp. (one)
- Traffic and Transportation (one)

For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.



## That's Amoré! Twinbrook Valentine's Dance Swings On Feb. 10

While couples throughout the Washington, D.C. area celebrate Valentine's Day, Rockville's Twinbrook Community Recreation Center is

inviting families to show their appreciation for each other at a heart-themed dance party on Friday, Feb. 10, from 7-9 p.m.

The annual "Heart to Heart Valentine's Day" event has brought moms, dads, brothers

and sisters together for a fun evening for the past three years.

Favorite activities such as a DJ spinning dance music, Valentine's Day Bingo and Valentine's Day carnival games

will return with prizes given away throughout the night. There will even be a craft table where children will be able to

make a Valentine for a loved one.

"It's a really fun evening and a way for families to celebrate Valentine's Day together and meet other families in the neighborhood," said Martha Coester, supervisor of the Twinbrook Community Center.

Twinbrook Community Center members and residents throughout the area are invited. Admission to the dance will be \$1 per person. Call 240-314-8830 for more information. **RR**

*"It's a really fun evening and a way for families to celebrate Valentines Day together and meet other families in the neighborhood."*

— Martha Coester,  
Supervisor of the Twinbrook  
Community Center

## New Bi-Annual Listing of City Events

A free brochure with details on major City events is now available at City facilities and participating area businesses.

The brochure is a comprehensive guide to the numerous events held each year in the City

To receive a free copy, call the City Public Information Office at 240-314-8116 or e-mail [jstrohm@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jstrohm@rockvillemd.gov).



City Events brochures also are available at City Hall, the Rockville Senior Center, the Rockville Municipal Swim Center, the Lincoln Park Community Center and the Twinbrook Recreation Center. **RR**

## A Limited Number of RedGate Annual Passes To Be Offered Starting Feb. 11

Rockville's RedGate Municipal Golf Course, which has often been recognized as one of the Washington Region's top public courses, will offer a limited number of season player passes in 2006 that could provide significant savings for golfers who appreciate the association with a "home" course.

A limited number of 10-month and six-month passes will be available for sale starting Saturday, Feb. 11. The season passes will enhance what already is the biggest package of special programs offered by any public golf course in the area.

RedGate's frequent player card, the course's most popular promotion last year, will become an even better deal this year. In 2006, golfers will only have to play four 18-hole rounds to get a free round.

RedGate also will again offer its multiple-play card that allows golfers who purchased 10 rounds in advance to play four rounds free.

"With all of these opportunities, we are doing something about the escalating price of golf for every type of player," said Kieron Mooney, the head golf professional at RedGate.

Mooney said par-71 RedGate has positioned itself to be ready for a new surge of golfers coming to the hilly, tree-



**For RedGate members, golf can be a "club" sport.**

lined course just off of Avery Road. Indian Springs in Layhill, one of Montgomery County's most prominent private clubs, will soon be closing. A public course in Olney also will be closing. Many of Montgomery's most-recently built public courses are in the northern part of the county.

"We have taken extra care with our greens over the winter," said Mooney. "From the start of spring golf season, people will see that RedGate has never been in better shape. For those who like the idea of being part of a golf 'club-type atmosphere' or having the comfort of what they consider their own home course, we have

packages that will provide just that."

Daily greens fees will again represent real value for courses in the class of RedGate. For Rockville residents, Monday through Thursday greens fees will be \$30 and Friday through Sunday fees will be \$36. For non-residents, the fees will be \$33 and \$40, respectively. Advance 14-day tee times are available to pass holders and daily players.

The season passes will have a multitude of price tiers. A 10-month, seven-day unlimited pass (valid March 1 through Dec. 31) for a resident will be \$1,900 (\$2,900 for non-residents). A six-month, seven-day pass (valid April 1 through Sept. 30) will be \$1,520 for residents (\$2,320 for non-residents).

Also available will be five-day passes (for those who only play weekdays) and family passes.

In addition to unlimited play, season pass holders will be entitled to a number of other exclusive benefits.

"The unique setting of a course like this—so rural yet so close to an urban setting—has always given RedGate a special feel," said Burt Hall, Rockville's Director of Recreation and Parks.

For more information about RedGate and its special programs, call 240-314-8730 or go to [www.rockvillemd.gov/redgate](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/redgate). **RR**

## Now Playing at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Rockville's Community Theatre

### Rockville Little Theatre: The Sisters Rosenweig · February 3-4, 8 p.m.

A play about the transformative power of love, sisterhood and life.

Tickets: \$14 adults, \$12 seniors (62 & older) & students w/valid ID, \$7 children 12 and under

### Victorian Lyric Opera Company: The Gypsy Baron · February 9-12, 17-19, Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.

Viennese operetta filled with Strauss' melodic waltzes, gypsy airs and heroic soldiers.

Feb. 9 student matinee (two FREE student tickets with one paying adult plus backstage tours and activities.)

Tickets: \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. (\$10 adult/\$7.50 student & seniors, Feb. 9 only)

### 11th Annual African American Heritage Production · February 24, 7:30 p.m.

THE FINEST! Youth Performance Troupe presents "A Change Gon' Come" about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad.



### Rockville Concert Band: Winter Concert · February 26, 3 p.m.



Rockville's premiere 75-member band performs a free seasonal concert featuring classical music, American favorites and show tunes.

For more information or for tickets, call 240-314-8690 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre)



**MARKING HISTORY...** Richard Ellis Smith, owner of 550 Reading Avenue, was one of more than a dozen homeowners to receive a City of Rockville historic plaque in January. Approximately 120 plaques will be installed by spring 2006 as part of a Mayor and Council program to recognize historic properties.

Rockville's Division of Historic Preservation, together with City carpenters, is conducting the installation free of charge to all homeowners with designated historic properties. Each plaque identifies the year the building was constructed. The home at 550 Reading Ave. was constructed around the turn of the century. For more information, contact the division of Historic Preservation at 240-314-8230.



## In Brief

### Rockville Youth Orchestra Auditions

Calling all budding musicians: Rockville's Regional Youth Orchestra, known as one of the most prestigious orchestras for talented young musicians in the Washington region, will hold auditions for the 2005 season, for student musicians in grades 4-9, on Feb. 2. To schedule a specific audition time, call 240-314-8682 or e-mail [kmoran@rockville.md.gov](mailto:kmoran@rockville.md.gov).

CALL **240-314-8682** FOR INFO

### Good Neighbor Nominations

Applications are currently being accepted for the fourth annual Rockville "Good Neighbor Awards."

Rockville residents who after July 2005 made a significant contribution to the community, a neighbor or to the City in general, may be eligible.

Visit [www.rockville.md.gov/residents/ncs/gnaward](http://www.rockville.md.gov/residents/ncs/gnaward) for nomination forms or more information.

CALL **240-314-8343** FOR INFO

### Rent Garden Plots

Community garden plots will be available starting Feb. 24 for Rockville residents and March 6 for non-residents.

The plots are 20 feet by 25 feet and are located at Wootton's Mill Park. They can be used April 1-Nov. 15.

The cost is \$40 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/garden](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/garden) for additional information.

CALL **240-314-8660** FOR INFO

### Share A Love of History: Be a Guide

Volunteers are needed as museum guides for the Montgomery County Historical Society's Beall-Dawson House.

Training to become a museum guide will be held Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 30 and 31, from 10 a.m.-12 noon. Training will cover interpretation of the Beall-Dawson House and Stonestreet Museum of 19th Century Medicine, tour techniques and more.

Guides volunteer two weekday afternoons or one weekend afternoon per month from 12 noon-4 p.m.

CALL **301-340-2825** FOR INFO

### Nature Center Volunteers Needed

Rockville's Croydon Creek Nature Center is looking for fun-loving and energetic adult volunteers.

Volunteers may serve as front desk greeters, welcoming guests and helping to answer phones. In addition, volunteers are needed as program assistants to help naturalists with large programs.

Application forms are available at [www.rockville.md.gov/employment/jobapp.pdf](http://www.rockville.md.gov/employment/jobapp.pdf).

CALL **240-314-8771** FOR INFO

### Chinese Open House At College Gardens

College Gardens Elementary School is inviting parents of incoming kindergarten students and first and second graders to learn more about its Chinese Immersion Program through two open houses.

An open house for kinder-

garten students will be held Wednesday, Feb. 15, from 10-11 a.m. An open house for first and second graders will be Wednesday, March 8, from 1-2 p.m.

For more information, contact Chen Chiu, the program coordinator, at [Chen\\_Chiu@fc.mcps.k12.md.us](mailto:Chen_Chiu@fc.mcps.k12.md.us).

CALL **301-279-8470** FOR INFO

### Tax Assistance Program Starting

Qualified Rockville residents can again take advantage of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), a free tax preparation for low-income residents and senior citizens.

The program is incorporated into the tax preparation assistance program operated through the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center at 332 West Edmonston Drive in Rockville. The program began on Jan. 23. Hours of operation are Monday and Tuesday nights from 5-9 p.m. In addition, preparers will be available from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Advance appointments are required to have taxes prepared. For more information or to make an appointment, call 301-279-1035.

CALL **301-279-1035** FOR INFO

**The Finest!**  
presents  
"A Change Gon'  
Come"  
February 24

## Para ud

### Inspecciones y autorizaciones de alquiler

En la Ciudad de Rockville, todas las propiedades en alquiler deben estar autorizadas antes de arrendarse o alquilarse. La autorización de alquiler de las unidades se otorga cada dos años cuando se hayan verificado el mantenimiento de la propiedad, la salubridad y las deficiencias de seguridad. Las viviendas unifamiliares incluyen casas separadas, casas con paredes comunes y departamentos en propiedad horizontal.

— Translated by  
Victoria Imas-Duchovny

CALL **240-314-8330** FOR INFO

## In Brief

### Rental Inspections And Licensing

All rental properties must be licensed prior to leasing or renting within the City limits.

Rental units must pass the required inspection for property maintenance, health and safety deficiencies every two years prior to the issuance of a rental license. Single-family dwellings include detached houses, townhouses and condominiums.

Multi-family dwellings (apartments) are inspected and licensed annually.

CALL **240-314-8330** FOR INFO

## CITY

**4,11,18,25** MOBY

**Medical Clinic** 9:30-11:30 a.m. Lincoln Park Community Recreation Center. 301-493-2400

**10** **Family Valentine's Day Dance** 7-9 p.m. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center. \$1 general admission. 240-314-8830.

**18** **Off-Leash Dog Testing** 10 a.m. Swim Center Outdoor Entrance Parking Lot. 240-314-8930

## ARTS

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre are located in Rockville's Civic Center Park. Arts Hotline: 240-314-5006. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre). Service charges apply.

**5-28** **Glenview Mansion Art Gallery:** Winston Harris, mixed media print collage; Carl Root, photography; and Robert Weiner, fused glass. Opening reception, Feb. 5, 1-4 p.m. Artist talk, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. Guided tour, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. FREE. Glenview Mansion. 240-314-8660.

**5** **Sunday Afternoon Concert Series: CAJE** World-beat jazz music. 2-3 p.m. Glenview Mansion. FREE. 240-314-8682.

## february calendar of events

RES. = Residents • NR. = Non Residents • MEM. = Member • NM. = Non Member

**9-12,17-19** **Victorian Lyric Opera Company: The Gypsy Baron** (Preview Thu., Feb. 9), Fri. Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$20 adults; \$15 students and seniors; Feb. 9 only: \$10 adult/\$7.50 student & seniors 240-314-8690

**24** **11th Annual African American Heritage Production** THE FIN-EST! presents "A Change Gon' Come" 7:30 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$7 seniors & children ages 5-12. 240-314-8633.

**26** **Rockville Concert Band: Winter Concert** 3 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. FREE. 240-314-8690.

## NATURE

All programs are at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration is required. Register online at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) or call 240-314-8770.

**5** **Maple Sugaring Breakfast at Chez Croydon** 8:30-10 a.m. All ages. \$7 RES/\$8 NR.

**8** **Tiny Tot Walk and Tike Hike – Maple Sugaring** 10:30-11:15 a.m. Ages 1 1/2-2. 1-2 p.m. Ages 3-5. \$4 RES/\$5 NR.

**9** **Celebrate the Chesapeake** 4-5 p.m. Ages 7-14. \$5 RES/\$6 NR.

**10** **Reptile Round-Up** Meet Croydon Creek's resident critters. 7-8 p.m. All ages. \$5 RES/\$6 NR.

**18** **Skunk Cabbage Hike** 1-2 p.m. All ages. \$5 RES/\$6 NR.

**19** **For the Birds** Make a treat to hang outside for feathered friends 1:30-2:30 p.m. Ages 3-over. \$5 RES/\$6 NR.

## SENIORS

All programs are at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive, unless noted. Phone: 240-314-8800

**1** **February Birthday and Anniversary Party** 1:30-3 p.m. FREE.

**3** **The Way It Use To Be** 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE.

**8** **History of Gaithersburg** 10:30-11:30 a.m. FREE. Register by Feb. 1.

**10** **Marbling Paper** 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. \$5 MEM/\$10 NM. Register by Feb. 3.

**15** **A Life of My Own: Eleanor Roosevelt** 10:30 a.m.-12 noon. \$5 MEM/\$8 NM. Register by Feb. 8.

**15** **Sinatra – Was He Really that Good?** 1-2 p.m. \$2 MEM/\$4 NM. Register by Feb. 8.

**22** **Warming Foods For Winter** 10 a.m.-12 noon. \$20 MEM/\$25 NM. Register by Feb. 15.

## BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted.

**4** **Board of Appeals**, 9:30 a.m.

**8** **Cultural Arts Commission**, 7 p.m.

**8** **Bike Advisory Commission**, 7:15 p.m.

**8** **Planning Commission**, 7 p.m.

**14** **Human Services Advisory Commission**, 7:30 p.m., Senior Center

**14** **Commission on the Environment**, 7:30 p.m.

**15** **Sign Review Board**, 4 p.m. (held as needed)

**21** **Rockville Seniors, Inc.**, 1 p.m., Senior Center

**21** **Town Center Action Team**, 7 p.m., Room 105, Red Brick Courthouse

**15** **Rockville Housing Enterprises**, 6:30 p.m., Lincoln Park Community Center

**16** **Rockville Sister City Corporation**, 7:30 p.m.

**16** **Senior Citizens Commission**, 10 a.m., Senior Center

**16** **Historic District Commission**, 7 p.m., Senior Center

**22** **Planning Commission**, 7 p.m.

**22** **Human Rights Commission**, 7:30 p.m.

**23** **Recreation and Parks Advisory Board**, 7 p.m.

**24** **Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Board Meeting**, 7:30 a.m., 95 Monroe Street (call 301-315-8096)

**28** **Traffic and Transportation Commission**, 7:30 p.m.



Rockville Up Close: Human Services Commission

Residents help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

REAPing the Benefits of Helping Others

For nearly a decade, the City of Rockville's Human Services Advisory Commission (HSAC) has provided advice and guidance to the Mayor and Council on human service needs in the City of Rockville and how best to address them. One major need this year results from the increase in applications for the Rockville

Emergency Assistance Program (REAP). There were 94 approved applications from July through December 2005 as compared with 79 during the same period of 2004—an increase of almost 20 percent. Of the 94 applications, 48 resulted from threatened utility shut-offs. Rising utility costs are affecting many residents this season, especially those already struggling to meet their utility payments. Because of the increased costs for natural gas, electricity and oil, the Commission anticipates there will be even more households who will need assistance

"This is going to be a real rough winter for our neediest residents. We're encouraging all Rockville residents to donate to REAP. Every little bit helps."

— Tim Stranges, HSAC Chairman

to pay their utility bills. For years the City of Rockville, in partnership with Community Ministries of Rockville, has provided emergency assistance to residents through the REAP program. The City's Department of Community Services coordinates the program. Any city resident threatened with eviction, utility shut-off or other documented financial emergency, is eligible to apply for the program. REAP can provide up to \$750 per year to help alleviate the resident's emergency. Last year, the REAP pro-

gram approved 160 applications for assistance serving 202 adults and 319 children. Recipients have used emergency money to help pay for utilities, rent, mortgage payments and medical-related emergencies. "This is going to be a real rough winter for our neediest residents," said Tim Stranges, HSAC chairman. "We're encouraging all Rockville residents to donate to REAP. Every little bit helps." There is a designated space on the City water bill to make a donation. People who pay their bill online, or who wish to make a separate donation, can send a check made payable to City of Rockville/REAP and mail it to City of Rockville/REAP, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. RR



Volunteer Time: Literacy Council There are many ways to share talent, experience, expertise and time with individuals or organizations by volunteering in the City. Each month "Volunteer Time" highlights a different opportunity to promote an interest in giving back to the community.

Not knowing how to read can impact every part of a person's life, especially their self-esteem, and can limit their job potential. But one Montgomery County organization is leading the way to help people who want to learn to read English. The Literacy Council of Montgomery County is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping adults learn to speak, read and write English up to a fifth grade level. Based in Wheaton, the Literacy Council works with numerous Rockville residents who volunteer and utilize their services. In the future, the Literacy Council will be moving its office to the new Rockville Library being constructed in Rockville Town Center.

The demand for Literacy Council services is high. The program has an ongoing waiting list of students who need tutors. Edna Lipson is one long-time Literacy Council tutor and a resident of the New Mark Commons neighborhood in Rockville.

"I love tutoring because I see people grow and change and become so pleased and proud of themselves," said Lipson. "I enjoy volunteering so much, I try to get other people to do it too." Tutors and students meet two hours each week at a mutually convenient time and place. Any literate adult with a desire to help others can be a tutor. Knowledge of a foreign language and prior teaching experience is not required. Volunteers are asked for a commitment of six months.

The next two orientation sessions will be held Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Wheaton Library located at 11701 Georgia Avenue. To register, call 301-942-9292 or e-mail info@literacycouncilmcmd.org.RR

Fitness Workouts Just Around the Corner

Get on the fast track to fitness by taking advantage of the multiple facilities with high-quality fitness equipment in Rockville. For those residents looking to get in shape by summer, memberships at City facilities may be an attractive alternative to other high-cost fitness centers. The Lincoln Park Community Recreation Center, the Twinbrook Recreation Community Recreation Center, the Municipal Swim Center and the Rockville Senior Center each feature fitness rooms that are open to members seven days per week during regular center operating hours. Lockers and showers are available at most centers and appointments with certified fitness trainers can be scheduled. A full-array of high-quality

equipment is included in each fitness room, including elliptical trainers, treadmills, exercise bikes, stair steppers, ab, bench press and leg press machines and free weights. An annual membership to the Lincoln Park fitness center is just \$50 for residents (\$75 for non-residents), making it one of the best deals in the area. Daily rates are \$3 for residents and \$5 for non-residents. At the Twinbrook Recreation Center, a wide variety of fitness memberships are available. The daily fee is \$5 for residents, \$7 for non-residents. Monthly fitness rates are \$20 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/twinbrook/membership for information about special rates for



Fitness centers like this one at the Rockville Senior Center are available at facilities throughout the City. seniors, families and annual memberships. Fitness room use is included with the fee to use the Rockville Municipal Swim Center's pools

and other amenities during regular center hours. Daily admission is \$6 for adults and \$5 for children; \$5 for adults and \$4 for residents with a valid recreation ID card. Discount passes and memberships are also available. For more information visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter/membership. Use of the fitness equipment at the Rockville Senior Center is only \$25 a year, but a senior center membership also is required. Membership at the center offers many benefits, including a wide array of recreational activities, classes, and programs, and social services provided just for seniors. Call 240-314-8800 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/tours/seniorcenter/index.html#membership for membership information. RR

TRC 11		THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL FEBRUARY PROGRAM SCHEDULE							✂ --- CLIP & SAVE ---	
		SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
12 Midnight until meeting ends		Planning Commission	Historic District Commission	Mayor & Council	Mayor & Council	Historic District Commission	Mayor & Council	Planning Commission		
6 a.m.		City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report		
6:30 a.m.		Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline		
7 a.m.		Informed Citizenry	Responsible & Responsive	Service Rockville!	Exploring Rockville's Past	Service Rockville!	Informed Citizenry	Responsible & Responsive		
7:30 a.m.		Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review		
8 a.m.		City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report		
8:30 a.m.		Historic District Commission	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council		
9 a.m.			MLK, Jr. Celebration	City Diversity: African Americans	MLK, Jr. Celebration	City Diversity: African Americans	MLK, Jr. Celebration			
9:30 a.m.										
10 a.m.				Responsible & Responsive		African American Heritage (After Feb. 25)				
10:30 a.m.				Exploring Rockville's Past						
11 a.m.			Service Rockville!	Preserving the Past	Service Rockville!		Service Rockville!	Cityline		
11:30 a.m.		Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review		
12 noon		City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report		
12:30 p.m.		Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline		
1 pm until meeting ends		Mayor & Council	Planning Commission	Mayor & Council	Historic District Commission	Planning Commission	Mayor & Council	Planning Commission		
4 p.m.		Service Rockville!	African American Heritage (After Feb. 25)	Service Rockville!	MLK, Jr. Celebration		MLK, Jr. Celebration			
4:30 p.m.		Resp. & Resp.		Resp. & Resp.		City Diversity: African Americans		Service Rockville!		
5 p.m.		Expl. Rock's Past		Expl. Rock's Past				City Diversity: African Americans		
5:30 p.m.										
6 p.m.		City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report		
6:30 p.m.		Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review		
7 p.m.		Planning Commission	Mayor & Council	MLK, Jr. Celebration	Planning Commission	City Diversity: African Americans	Mayor & Council	MLK, Jr. Celebration		
7:30 p.m.										
8 p.m.						Service Rockville! (Until Feb. 25)	Historic District Comm. (HDC) (3rd Thurs.)			
8:30 p.m.						Resp. & Resp.				
9 p.m.				Service Rockville!		Expl. Rock's Past		Service Rockville!		
9:30 p.m.				Cityline		Cityline		Cityline		
10 p.m.		City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report		
10:30 p.m.		Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review		
11 p.m.		City Diversity: African Americans	City Diversity: African Americans	City Diversity: African Americans	Service Rockville!	Service Rockville!	City Diversity: African Americans	Service Rockville!		
11:30p.m.					Preserving the Past	Preserving the Past		Exploring Rockville's Past		

**Mayor**  
LARRY GIAMMO

**Councilmembers**  
ROBERT E. DORSEY,  
SUSAN R. HOFFMANN,  
PHYLLIS MARCUCCIO,  
ANNE M. ROBBINS

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